

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 25 were rejected, claims 15-24 and 26-35 were objected to, and claims 1-13 and 36-44 were allowed. By the present Response, claims 14 and 25 are cancelled, and claims 15 and 26 are amended. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-13, 15-24 and 26-44 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Dean et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,445,182). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14 and 25 have been cancelled.

Claims 15-24 and 26-35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 26 have been amended and rewritten as independent claims including all the limitations of claim 14 and 25 respectively. No new matter has been added. Claims 16-24 depend directly or indirectly from the amended claim 15, and claims 27-35 depend directly or indirectly from claim 26. Claims 15-24 and 26-35 should thus be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/13/2004

29
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